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THIS IS THE LATEST SCHEME FOR SHOOTING NIAGARA FALLS.

TO GO OVER NIAGARA FALLS IN SAFETY.

A Michigan Genius Has Invented a Combination Balloon-Boat with a Seat High Up Above the Water.

About once in so many years somebody turns up with a consumptive desire to glide over Niagara Falls, just to prove that it can be done. Mr. Coryell Bartholomew, aeronaut, of Jackson, Mich., is the man who now has his eye on Niagara.

Mr. Bartholomew, aeronaut, of Jackson, Mich., knows all about the dizzy-headed adventures who have tried the same game and lost. He is wiser than all the rest, and, knowing in his own mind the secret of success, he is impatient to shoot the Falls and show how it can be done.

Mr. Bartholomew's scheme does sound very reasonable, and his arguments seem sound—but then this was equally true of the others whose bodies floated down the stream after Niagara had got through with them. Still Mr. Bartholomew has hit upon a device which does look more like a match for the catarrh than anything invented by others in the past.

He is getting ready to make the trip, and is now waiting to hear from the New York State authorities, to whom he has applied for permission. Bartholomew, having experience as an aeronaut, intends to try to combine a balloon and a boat into a contrivance which will have the best points of each.

This machine is in effect a colossal balloon in the shape of a great dumb bell, between the two globes of which the aeronaut will hang suspended from a steel bar on a trapeze. A hollow shaft of light sheet steel one hundred feet in length will extend from one end to the other of this apparatus.

At either end of the steel bar will be a sphere forty feet in diameter. This will leave a space of about twenty feet between the two globe halves. Here the aeronaut is to be suspended on his trapeze.

The two spheres will be built on a light steel frame. Each of them is to have a thick covering of cork. The cork covering will be useful in deadening the shock from any rocks that he encountered in the perilous trip over Niagara Falls. It will also be useful in floating the structure in case the spheres should be punctured, letting gas out and water in.

The two globe halves on either end of the hollow steel shaft are to be in effect separate balloons. They are to be air and water tight. They will be filled with dry-dressed gas just before the trip is launched in the river above the falls.

The structure will have a considerable lifting capacity, and it will rest very lightly on the water. Indeed, the inventor of this extraordinary apparatus says that it will so closely resemble a balloon in its lifting capacity that ballast will have to be used to keep it down in the water.

This dead weight is to be stored in such a way that the daring aeronaut, at any time during his trip over Niagara Falls, can release his ballast in case he finds his ship sinking. He thinks, in what he may have to do at the instant the machine shoots over the edge of the Falls.

The huge dumb-bell will be so light that the probabilities are it will float clear of the volume of water coming over the brink, and that from this lofty point, in full view of the thousands who are to be seen from above, he will sink easily and gracefully to the bottom of the calm water below. There the Maid of the Mist and smaller boats will be in readiness to take him on board.

Niagara Falls is not so remarkable for its height as it is for the stupendous volume of water passing over the brink every minute, and which is paralleled nowhere else on earth. Here is a river much larger than the Hudson plunging over a precipice 260 feet in height with a speed which would instantly kill any man whose body was once caught in the falls.

Thousands of tons of water fell per second upon the rocks beneath the channel of the falls. This is the only spot along the brink where the water is deep and green as it passes over.

The water is said to be thirty feet in depth at this point, and the force of the current is so great that this immense body of water shoots out from the brink of the falls at a considerable distance before it begins to fall perpendicularly. At other points along the edge of the falls the water is comparatively shallow and it commences to fall vertically and breaks into spray the moment it has passed over the brink.

No man is known ever to have passed over Niagara Falls and lived to tell the tale. Charles D. Graham, of Rochester, claimed that in August, 1889, he successfully made the trip in a cigar-shaped barrel, which was stoutly constructed of wood and heavily bound with iron. But grave doubts have been thrown upon Graham's alleged achievement.

The passage through the Whirlpool Rapids is altogether a different thing from the passage over the falls, and the two should not be confounded. The Whirlpool Rapids, where Captain Webb lost his life in an attempt to swim down with the current, are fully two miles below Niagara Falls. A calm and placid body of water intervenes.

Water-tight barrels have several times successfully passed through the Whirlpool Rapids, and a small steamer with her crew once made this perilous trip in an effort to escape seizure by the Sheriff. The attempt to go over the falls, however, is obviously so dangerous that few have ever before even claimed to be able to accomplish the journey.

Mr. Bartholomew says that the shape in his apparatus has been carefully studied out to keep him in an upright position the whole time the trip is being made. It will be impossible, he thinks, for such a large number of people to be crowded over the falls, and neither one will sink so low in the water that it will be liable to strike any of the rocks in the rapids above the falls.

It is here, before the brink of the Falls has been reached, that those who have studied this problem expect the aeronaut to meet with his greatest danger. The rapids above the Falls extend for a distance of nearly two miles.

Over the whole of this distance the river rushes at an ever increasing velocity, by huge fragments of rock lying but a few feet below the surface and in many places exposed, but they have never been explored.

The river above the falls is extremely wide, and those who have studied the rapids at this point say an extensive speed-water channel leads clear down to the spot in the centre of the Horseshoe, where the aeronaut is to be suspended on his trapeze. Some years ago a lake schooner was sent down to the falls and she successfully passed through the channel and reached the brink. There she hung for some hours before she was torn to pieces by the force of the waters and finally plunged below.

Mr. Bartholomew is well aware that huge brown rocks extend into full view at the foot of the Falls below the catarrh. Here is where he relies upon his balloon apparatus to come into play.

He expects to release a lot of ballast just as he goes over the brink, and then to sail into the air. Indeed, he claims that he will be able to rise from the brink of the Falls high into the air, perhaps to be blown back again over the current by some wind coming up the river.

Niagara Falls people, however, think the attempt would be a foolhardy one. They point out several dangers ahead of this invention.

Any sudden rocking of the apparatus as it strikes rocks in the rapids above the falls or is cast from side to side by the waves would be likely to throw the inventor against the steel bar and kill him. Mr. Bartholomew says, however, that on his trapeze some distance below this rod he will swing clear of all obstructions and cannot be injured.

Again, it has been pointed out that the current may shoot the apparatus over the falls end-on, after one of the balloons has been punctured, thus letting the gas escape. Mr. Bartholomew says in answer to this that the other balloon would keep up the machine sufficiently to break the force of the fall into the water below, and that in any event it would be light enough to be thrown far beyond the rocks so as to fall into the deep water.

What is the apparatus should get stuck in the rapids above the falls? That question has been asked at Niagara, but the inventor says it will float so light that it is not likely to hit any submerged rocks, and that its cork surface will make it rebound if it comes against one of those above the surface.

The daring inventor of this machine says that it will be launched in the river a mile or two above the falls, some time this summer, and will then be blown down in a boat. Mr. Bartholomew says he will take his place on the trapeze and the dumb-bell will be released in the channel.

From that time until he reaches the brink of the falls will take, he thinks, less than fifteen minutes, and that half an hour after taking his place on the trapeze bar he will be safely landed below the falls, after having successfully accomplished the most dangerous trip on earth.



HETTY GREEN'S BONNET.
America's Richest Woman Has New and Economical Headgear for Easter.

The richest woman in America, and probably in the world, has got her Easter bonnet. She made it herself, and therein she sets an example to the wives of men who are earning \$15 a week or less, and one which is not likely to be followed.

Mrs. Green has just been seen in public wearing the bonnet. She wears it not with the air of one who is doing something natural and appropriate to the Spring time, but of one who has acquired a new article of apparel because she needs it.

From the following technical and minute description it will at once be perceived that the bonnet could have been devised by no milliner. By no possibility could one have so utterly disregarded all fashion. The bonnet is a bold defiance to the whole millinery business. It is perfectly flat, whereas, Easter hats this year are just about as high as they can be made.

It has a black crown, just the shape of the top of the head, a sort of pitch-cap, in fact. This is covered by a piece of lace with jet beads on it. The lace is fastened down closely to the crown.

Clear round the edge of the bonnet runs a band of narrow, inexpensive black satin. In front this is tied into a bow, evidently home-made, which is situated exactly in the centre of the forehead. The sides of the bow do not stand out, with the gay butterfly effect generally fashionable in bows, but they lie down like two very unobtrusive human ears.

The general effect of the black ribbon is further relieved by three simple knots tied in it, one at each side and the other at the back, exactly on the centre of that portion of the head.

The most astonishing feature remains to be described. At four places along the ribbon there peep out four little red roses. Mrs. Green seems to have planned this gay concession to fashion and then to have half repented of it, for the roses are stuffed in between the ribbon and her thick iron-gray hair. They are the only touch of color in the whole creation.

To the back of the bonnet are attached two long pieces of black ribbon, which come down and are tied under the chin. They complete the Easter bonnet of the richest woman in America.

King Menelik, of Abyssinia, has promised to throw open to the scientific world the historical and biblical treasures known to exist in the vaults of the cathedral of Axum, Ethiopia have been crowned from time immemorial. A widespread tradition of the Moslem world asserts that it is within the ancient vaults of this structure that the Ark of the Covenant is preserved, along with the tables of stone containing the Ten Commandments, and which Moses brought down from Mount Sinai.

The seven-branched candlestick of gold, which figured in the Holy of Holies of the Temple of Solomon, at Jerusalem, is said to be preserved in these vaults, which are also known to contain a mass of ancient papyrus and other manuscripts that are in an excellent state of preservation, but have never been translated or annotated.

In view of this promise of King Menelik to throw open to the scientific world the historical and biblical treasures known to exist in the vaults of the cathedral of Axum, European archeologists are just now anxiously discussing the possibilities of such a search. Only a couple of years ago a Syrian manuscript dating back to the fourth century was unearthed in the Convent of St. Catherine, on Mount Sinai, giving in the native language of Christ a relation of the Scriptures whose existence was never before suspected.

But here in the Cathedral of Axum, a building of much greater mystery and interest, there is known to be a collection of ancient writings that has long excited the curiosity of scholars, and whose decipherment may produce for more valuable results.

It is no mere vague tradition handed down from father to son which has transmitted to generations of Abyssinians the story of how these priceless treasures came to repose in the Cathedral of Axum. The story of their procurement by the rulers of the country and of their being deposited within these sacred vaults is specific, particular and detailed.

It is told how they were brought from Jerusalem to Abyssinia by the founder of the present reigning dynasty, the first of the Emperors, Menelik, who was the son of King Solomon of Israel and of that biblical Queen of Sheba, who is on record as having carried on a very pronounced flirtation with the ruler of the Jews. This original Menelik is frequently referred to in the Song of Solomon, to be found in the Protestant Bible.

Although, as authentic history teaches, born after the return of his mother to her own dominion, he was brought up at the court of his father at Jerusalem. He remained there until the first destruction and sacking of Jerusalem and the pillage of the Temple of Solomon by Salsarak, King of Egypt.

Immediately before the destruction of the temple Menelik fled back to Abyssinia. He carried with him for safe-keeping the treasures of that structure, which were threatened with seizure and defilement.

It is positively asserted by Abyssinian tradition that he carried back with him the tables of stone, the ark of the Covenant and the seven-branched candlestick. These he deposited in the interior of that huge granite pile which constitutes the pedestal of the ancient Abyssinian temple of Axum, long ante-dating the Christian era, and where the rulers of Ethiopia have been crowned from the earliest times.

The present Cathedral of Axum is alleged by a pious tradition of the people to have been designed by no less a personage than Saint Joseph, the husband of the Virgin Mary. It is a quadrilateral building of considerable height.

It is believed that he will open up for the first time the priceless treasures that have for thousands of years been jealously preserved on the Holy Island of Debra Sinai, located near the centre of the great inland sea or Lake of Zool, in the southern portion of the Kingdom of Shoa. This island is reputed sacred not only among the Abyssinians themselves, but also throughout the Moslem world, and is to this probably that must be attributed the fact that notwithstanding the innumerable wars that have raged in Abyssinia for at least a few years past, the sanctity of the island has never been violated by either a Christian or infidel.

This island of Debra Sinai is a rugged and guarded entirely by a high, steep, and almost inaccessible mountain, and is the residence of a few monks, who are never permitted to leave it again. In fact, the island has never been trodden by the foot of any human until two years ago, when Emperor Menelik himself, attended by a few of his picked troops or generals, accompanied by a strongly armed bodyguard, crossed the waters of the lake and landed on the island, the bodyguard remaining in the boats ready for emergency.

According to the dusky monarch's own account the vaults of the monastery, which is of a colossal size and is built upon rocks, are filled with papyrus and parchments and books of every description. The books are believed to have been sent thither at the time of the Mohammedan invasion of Abyssinia, in the sixteenth century, but the Emperor Menelik is determined to have the world-wide library of Alexandria, which was dispersed in the seventh century by the Mohammedan calif Omar.

The papyrus evidently date from a much earlier era and probably relate to that period when the Emperors of Ethiopia ruled not only over Abyssinia, but also over Egypt, their dominion of the latter country being pictured by many a sculpture and painting on the pyramids and temples of the Nile.

No surprise has been excited in the European world by this generous offer of the Emperor Menelik, who is known to be a man of progressive mind and enlightened methods. He is endeavoring to show by every means in his power that he is a monarch of the Old World.

King Menelik, of Abyssinia, has applied for admission to the Postal Union. He has accepted an honorary membership in nearly all of the leading geographical societies of Europe.

He has taken the necessary steps for the admission of his Government into the association known as the Geneva Convention, the object of which is to diminish as much as possible the horrors of warfare by caring for the sick and wounded and by refraining from the use of explosive bullets, nitro-glycerine bombs and other similar means of offence of a barbarous character. Since the crushing blow which was inflicted upon the Italian army sought to subjugate his country, he has been curiously studied by the people of Europe.

Observers who have known him with Menelik have told their tales of the extraordinary things he has done have fairly reflected his ideas. A suit of his has been found, a baron, as his country had named him, a man of education and enlightened friend of progress and a ruler who appreciates the value of his subjects.

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Observers who have known him with Menelik have told their tales of the extraordinary things he has done have fairly reflected his ideas. A suit of his has been found, a baron, as his country had named him, a man of education and enlightened friend of progress and a ruler who appreciates the value of his subjects.

It is believed that he will open up for the first time the priceless treasures that have for thousands of years been jealously preserved on the Holy Island of Debra Sinai, located near the centre of the great inland sea or Lake of Zool, in the southern portion of the Kingdom of Shoa. This island is reputed sacred not only among the Abyssinians themselves, but also throughout the Moslem world, and is to this probably that must be attributed the fact that notwithstanding the innumerable wars that have raged in Abyssinia for at least a few years past, the sanctity of the island has never been violated by either a Christian or infidel.

This island of Debra Sinai is a rugged and guarded entirely by a high, steep, and almost inaccessible mountain, and is the residence of a few monks, who are never permitted to leave it again. In fact, the island has never been trodden by the foot of any human until two years ago, when Emperor Menelik himself, attended by a few of his picked troops or generals, accompanied by a strongly armed bodyguard, crossed the waters of the lake and landed on the island, the bodyguard remaining in the boats ready for emergency.

According to the dusky monarch's own account the vaults of the monastery, which is of a colossal size and is built upon rocks, are filled with papyrus and parchments and books of every description. The books are believed to have been sent thither at the time of the Mohammedan invasion of Abyssinia, in the sixteenth century, but the Emperor Menelik is determined to have the world-wide library of Alexandria, which was dispersed in the seventh century by the Mohammedan calif Omar.

The papyrus evidently date from a much earlier era and probably relate to that period when the Emperors of Ethiopia ruled not only over Abyssinia, but also over Egypt, their dominion of the latter country being pictured by many a sculpture and painting on the pyramids and temples of the Nile.

No surprise has been excited in the European world by this generous offer of the Emperor Menelik, who is known to be a man of progressive mind and enlightened methods. He is endeavoring to show by every means